

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 07428 030936Z

13

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

----- 060255

R 021545Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7594

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LY, TS

SUBJ: JERBA DECLARATION: TUNISIAN TREATMENT OF LIBYAN

"UNITY OFFENSIVE"

REF (A) TRIPOLI 1293 (B) FBIS L011440 (NOTAL)

1. DECEMBER 1 TUNISIAN PRESS REPORTED CALLS
NOVEMBER 30 BY LIBYAN ASU DELEGATION ON PRESIDENT
BOURGUIBA AND PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA. ARTICLES IN
FRENCH LANGUAGE L'ACTION AND ARABIC AS-SABAH REPORTED
STATEMENT BY CHIEF OF DELEGATION ABDELHAMID ESSID ZENTANI
THAT BOURGUIBA AND NOUIRA HAD BEEN GIVEN DOCUMENT
OF LIBYAN ASU CONGRESS CONCERNING JERBA DECLARATION WHICH
"REPRESENTS AN HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNIFICATION
OF DIVERSE PARTS OF THE ARAB FATHERLAND AND WHICH
AFFORDED THE OCCASION TO ACHIEVE AN OBJECTIVE THAT
EVERYONE REGARDS AS IMPORTANT". L'ACTION AND AS-SABAH
MADE NO MENTION OF ANY STATEMENT BY BOURGUIBA SUCH
AS ASCRIBED TO HIM BY LIBYAN PRESS (TRIPOLI 1293)

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AND RADIO (FBIS L011440).

2. COMMENT: DOMESTIC TUNISIAN HANDLING OF THE ASU DELEGATION VISIT INDICATIVE GOT DESIRE TO KEEP UNIFICATION PROPOSAL UNDER WRAPS. AS ADDRESSEES ARE AWARE, BOURGUIBA HAS SEVERAL TIMES PUBLICLY GONE OUT OF HIS WAY TO DISCREDIT, EXPLAIN AWAY, AND DENY THE FEASIBILITY OF THE JERBA DECLARATION. WHILE IT IS APPARENTLY TRUE (AS THE FBIS REPORT QUOTES BOURGUIBA SAYING) THAT GOT INTENDS TO INTRODUCE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO PERMIT NATIONAL REFERENDA -- THE LACK OF WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY CITED AS MAKING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JERBA AGREEMENT TEMPORARILY IMPOSSIBLE -- OBSERVERS HERE BELIEVE GOT HAS DOMESTIC POLITICAL USES IN MIND FOR A REFERENDUM RATHER THAN POLLING THE NATION ON UNION WITH LIBYA. THE STATEMENT WHICH TRIPOLI RADIO ASCRIBES TO BOURGUIBA THAT STEPS ARE SPEEDILY BEING TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT UNION BETWEEN LIBYA AND TUNISIA REPRESENTS THE REVERSE OF WHAT WE HAVE UNDERSTOOD GOT'S AND BOURGUIBA'S PRESENT POLICY TO BE.
SEELYE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMITY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TUNIS07428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740349-1054
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741266/aaaacevl.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TRIPOLI 1293 (B) FBIS L011440 (N, OTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14-Aug-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JERBA DECLARATION: TUNISIAN TREATMENT OF LIBYAN "UNITY OFFENSIVE"
TAGS: PFOR, LY, TS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005